

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20-39. (Not entered)

40. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a scFv multimer with thrombopoietin (TPO)-like agonistic activity, wherein the TPO-like agonistic activity is stimulating cell proliferation by activating myeloproliferative leukemia virus oncogene (mpl) receptor, enhancing the activity of an antibody, the method comprising

(a) identifying an antibody that binds to an antigen mpl receptor;

(b) providing the antibody's light chain variable region amino acid sequence and heavy chain variable region amino acid sequence; [[and]]

(c) producing a covalently linked scFv multimer comprising two ~~or more~~ copies of [[the]]said light chain variable region sequence of (b) and two ~~or more~~ copies of [[the]]said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b), linked via linkers[[,]];

(d) testing the covalently linked scFv multimer for said TPO-like agonistic activity; and

(e) selecting the covalently linked scFv multimer if it binds to mpl receptor and exhibits said TPO-like agonistic activity wherein the covalently linked scFv multimer binds to the antigen and exhibits an activity at a level that is (i) greater than the level at which the antibody of (a) exhibits the same activity and (ii) greater than the level at which a diabody exhibits the same activity, the diabody consisting of two identical, non-covalently associated single-chain polypeptides, each of which consists of one copy of [[the]]said light chain variable region sequence of (b) linked via a linker to one copy of [[the]]said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b).

41. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a single-chain antibody with TPO-like agonistic activity, wherein the TPO-like agonistic activity is stimulating cell proliferation by activating mpl receptor,~~enhancing the activity of an antibody,~~ the method comprising

- (a) identifying an antibody that binds to ~~an antigen~~mpl receptor;
- (b) providing the antibody's light chain variable region amino acid sequence and heavy chain variable region amino acid sequence; [[and]]
- (c) producing a single-chain polypeptide comprising two or more copies of the light chain variable region sequence of (b) and two or more copies of the heavy chain variable region sequence of (b), linked via linkers[[,]];
- (d) testing the single-chain polypeptide for said TPO-like agonistic activity; and
- (e) selecting the single-chain polypeptide if it binds to mpl receptor and exhibits said TPO-like agonistic activity ~~wherein the single-chain polypeptide binds to the antigen and exhibits an activity~~ at a level that is (i) greater than the level at which the antibody of (a) exhibits the same activity and (ii) greater than the level at which a diabody exhibits the same activity, the diabody consisting of two identical, non-covalently associated single-chain polypeptides, each of which consists of one copy of the light chain variable region sequence of (b) linked via a linker to one copy of the heavy chain variable region sequence of (b).

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the single-chain polypeptide of step (c) is a sc(Fv)₂.

43. - 48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 40, wherein the antibody of (a) is human or humanized.

50. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 41, wherein the antibody of (a) is human or humanized.

51. - 53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[41]]42, wherein the sequence of the sc(Fv)2 comprises, in order: the heavy chain variable region sequence, a first linker sequence, the light chain variable region sequence, a second linker sequence, the heavy chain variable region sequence, a third linker sequence, and the light chain variable region sequence.

55. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method comprising

(a) identifying a first antibody that binds to a first epitope on a first mpl receptor antigen and a second antibody that binds to a second epitope on mpl receptor different from the first epitope, ~~wherein the second epitope is on the first antigen or on a second antigen;~~

(b) providing the antibodies' light chain variable region amino acid sequences and heavy chain variable region amino acid sequences; [[and]]

(c) producing a sc(Fv)2 comprising the light chain variable region sequence and the heavy chain variable region sequence of the first antibody and the light chain variable region sequence and the heavy chain variable region sequence of the second antibody, all linked via linkers into a single-chain polypeptide[[.]];

(d) testing the single-chain polypeptide for a TPO-like agonistic activity, wherein the TPO-like agonistic activity is stimulating cell proliferation by activating mpl receptor; and

(e) selecting the sc(Fv)2 if it binds to both the first epitope and the second epitope and exhibits said TPO-like agonistic activity wherein the sc(Fv)2 binds to both the first epitope and the second epitope and exhibits an activity at a level that is greater than the level at which a diabody exhibits the same activity, the diabody consisting of a first scFv non-covalently associated with a second scFv, the first scFv consisting of the first antibody's light chain variable region sequence linked via a linker to the first antibody's heavy chain variable region sequence, and the second scFv consisting of the second antibody's light chain variable region sequence linked via a linker to the second antibody's heavy chain variable region sequence.

56. - 57. (Canceled)

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55, wherein the first and second antibodies are human or humanized.

59. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a single-chain polypeptide with enhanced TPO-like agonistic activity, wherein the TPO-like agonistic activity is stimulating cell proliferation by activating mpl receptor, ~~enhancing the activity of an antibody~~, the method comprising

- (a) identifying an antibody that binds to ~~an antigen~~mpl receptor;
- (b) providing the antibody's light chain variable region amino acid sequence and heavy chain variable region amino acid sequence; [[and]]
- (c) producing a single-chain polypeptide comprising two or more copies of a humanized version of ~~[[the]]~~said light chain variable region sequence of (b) and two or more copies of a humanized version of ~~[[the]]~~said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b), linked via linkers~~[[,]]~~;
- (d) testing the single-chain polypeptide for said TPO-like agonistic activity; and
- (e) selecting the single-chain polypeptide if it binds to mpl receptor and exhibits said TPO-like agonistic activity ~~wherein the single-chain polypeptide binds to the antigen and exhibits an activity~~ at a level that is (i) greater than the level at which the antibody of (a) exhibits the same activity and (ii) greater than the level at which a diabody exhibits the same activity, the diabody consisting of two identical, non-covalently associated single-chain polypeptides, each of which consists of one copy of the humanized version of ~~[[the]]~~said light chain variable region sequence of (b) linked via a linker to one copy of the humanized version of ~~[[the]]~~said heavy chain variable region sequence of (b).